

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-26, and 28-30 are pending in the application. Claims 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 12, 18, 23, and 25 are amended.

First, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication claims 7-22 and 28-30 are allowed. *See* Office Action dated 3/15/2007, Summary.

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejections of claims 23-26, Applicants submit claims 23-26 (including amended claims 23 and 25) are directed to a method for calculating, in a hardware implementation, an intermediate value for use in a blending function. The utility of a blending function is easily understood by one of ordinary skill in the computer and hardware arts. As argued previously, support may be found at least at paragraphs [0031] to [0040] of the specification. Therefore, as claims 23-26 are directed to a useful, concrete, and tangible result, the current rejections should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayments, to
Deposit Account No. **11-0600**.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /Sumit Bhattacharya/
Sumit Bhattacharya
(Reg. No.51,469)
Attorneys for Intel Corporation

KENYON & KENYON LLP
333 West San Carlos St., Suite 600
San Jose, CA 95110

Telephone: (408) 975-7500
Facsimile: (408) 975-7501